

FutureFilms



Can't wait?

- ① For breaking news on *Casino Royale*, go to sonypictures.com/movies/casinoroyale/site
- ① Check out Craig's form so far. *Layer Cake* and *Enduring Love* (out on DVD) are a good start.

007 SPECIAL

CASINO ROYALE

➤ ETA DECEMBER 14

STARRING: Daniel Craig, Eva Green, Jeffrey Wright, Judi Dench, Mads Mikkelsen

DIRECTOR: Martin Campbell

THEY SAY: "I've read Ian Fleming's books and I've tried to take those things that are relevant now. If you take *Casino Royale*, it's a dated book – I mean, it was written in 1953 – but there are certain elements of it that still apply today, especially about a man like James Bond. There are elements that are important, and it's crucial that we see them. What we get in this movie, as well as all the action that's gonna happen, is an incredibly complex story about how this man becomes who he is. What I like about this script is that we have a Bond who – at least

at first – is sort of fallible and doesn't get it right, so therefore he has to learn. That's not saying that you should then forgive him for his bad behaviour, but you should sort of understand him. Because he's Bond. He's not always nice."

DANIEL CRAIG, JAMES BOND

WE SAY: Where better to start than with a return to the Bahamas for the fourth time in the world's most famous franchise? That's where we caught up with newbie Bond Daniel Craig, director Martin Campbell and producers Barbara Broccoli and Michael G. Wilson, as the second leg began on the 21st (Eon) Bond movie, adapted from Ian Fleming's very first James Bond novel, *Casino Royale*.

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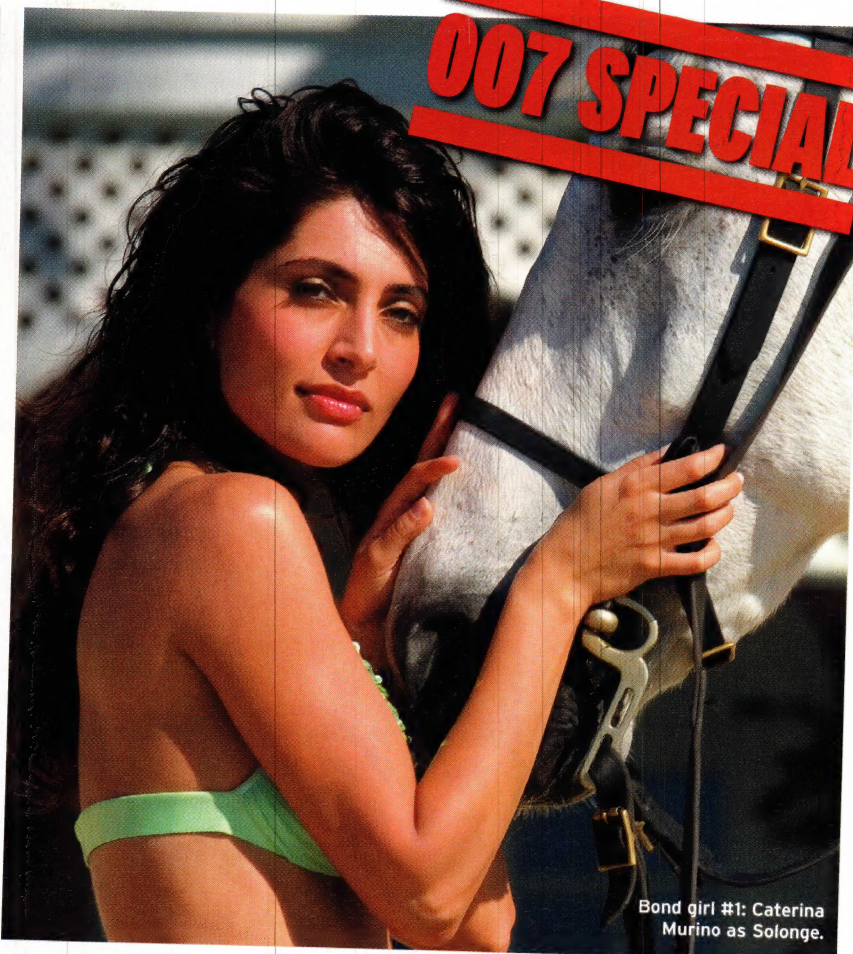


While the internet seethes with its CraigNotBond.com absurdity, the Eon crew are getting on with the matter at hand: making a kick-arse action movie. Working from a script by Bond regulars Neal Purvis and Rob Wade (polished by Paul Haggis), *Casino Royale* promises a return to the roots of Bond, with a story-line that sees Bond earning his stripes with MI6 and being sent on the trail of a terrorist (played by real-life "free runner", Sébastien Foucan).

So far, so not in the book. But after an adrenaline-pumping chase that takes him through the slums of Madagascar, into the jungle and 100 feet up onto the cranes of a construction site, Bond hears of the villainous Le Chiffre (Mads Mikkelsen), a foreign operative who is gambling his boss's money in a high-stakes poker game against 10 of the world's greatest players. But where the book busies itself with the psychology of card-playing, Campbell's film is very much about a bruised, bloodied and visceral Bond – and, from what we've seen so far, Craig is definitely up to the job.

Still, that's not to say this new 007 has jettisoned everything. Though there's no Q or Moneypenny and few gadgets, familiar glamour comes courtesy of not one, but three Bond girls: Eva Green (Vesper Lynd), Caterina Murino (Solonge) and Ivana Milicevic (Valenka), whose charms threaten to bring Bond down. How they'll do that we don't yet know, but by the time shooting wraps in July – after a return to Prague, a home run on the Pinewood Bond stage and an explosive trip to Venice – we'll be as desperate as anyone to find out.

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Bond girl #1: Caterina Murino as Solonge.



Bond girl #2: Eva Green as Vesper Lynd.